



HEADQUARTERS MEMORANDUM 20-02

File With: FC 131

Distribution: All

Date: 06-11-20

Subject: Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint

On December 27, 2002, the department published Headquarters Memorandum 02-13. This memorandum stated that "*. . . officers are advised that the use of the Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint is now considered deadly force.*" HQ Memo 02-13 was not codified in the most recent Use of Force policy, as this technique is no longer part of the program of defensive tactics instruction at the Training and Education Division, and has not been for almost 20 years. Officers are only to use defensive tactics that are consistent with the training provided by the department.

Officers are reminded that the use of the Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint is still considered "deadly force" by the Montgomery County Department of Police. HQ-Memo 02-13 is provided for context only.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. G. Jones", is written over a horizontal line.

Marcus G. Jones
Chief of Police

Attachments: HQ Memo 02-13



HEADQUARTERS MEMORANDUM 02-13

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Distribution: All

Date: 12-27-02

Subject: Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint

FC 131, "Use of Force," identifies "Deadly Force" as any use of reasonable and necessary force which is intended to or likely to cause death or serious injury. The Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint has been identified as a defensive technique which is extremely difficult to apply correctly and one that, when applied incorrectly, is likely to cause serious injury or death. Additionally, this technique is no longer part of the program of defensive tactics instruction offered by the Training and Education Division.

The decision to exercise force at any level is based upon the threat posed by a subject. Additionally, the use of deadly force is not limited to firearms or defensive weapons. As you are aware, use of force decisions receive extreme levels of scrutiny and our accountability for these decisions is quite high. In recent years, our department has engaged in a process of assessment and evaluation designed to offer officers a variety of less-lethal responses to threats to include OC spray and the M26 Taser, among other options. The inclusion of these techniques is intended to broaden the spectrum of viable options that are readily available to resolve violent confrontations without the use of force that rises to the level of "deadly force."

As the process of assessment and evaluation continues, it is incumbent upon us to determine the effectiveness of techniques that are or have been offered by the department and continually update our policy and training to reflect determinations of effectiveness. **Accordingly, officers are advised that the use of the Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint is now considered deadly force.** Therefore it should only be used in extreme circumstances where deadly force would be justified.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles A. Moose", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Charles A. Moose, Ph.D.
Chief of Police

CAM:ksp